

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution by a factor of $N/2$ by increasing and decreasing the luminances on N adjacent lines in a prescribed pattern that does not affect the image perceived by the human eye.

2. A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 1 wherein when the luminance of a line is increased or decreased, the entire line is changed the same way.

3. A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 2 wherein the luminances of said N lines is varied according to a sinusoidal function.

4. A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 2 wherein the luminances of said N lines is changed according to a sawtooth function.

5. A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 2 wherein the luminance is increased a constant amount for $N/2$ lines and decreased by the same constant amount for $N/2$ lines.

6. A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 2 wherein for each of said N lines for which the luminance is increased by a certain amount there is a corresponding line for which the luminance is decreased by the same amount.

7. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution by increasing and decreasing the luminances of a group of adjacent lines in a prescribed pattern that does not affect the image perceived by the human eye, the luminances of the lines being increased and decreased in such a way that most of the lines are adjacent other lines whose luminances are changed in the same direction.

8. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 7 wherein when the luminance of a line is increased or decreased, the entire line is changed the same way.

9. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 7 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sinusoidal function.

10. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 7 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sawtooth function.

11. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 7 wherein the luminance is increased a constant amount for half the lines and decreased by the same constant amount for the other half of the lines.

12. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution in accordance with claim 7 wherein for each of said lines for which the luminance is increased by a certain amount there is a corresponding line for which the luminance is decreased by the same amount.

13. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal by increasing and decreasing the luminances of a group of lines in a prescribed pattern that does not affect the image perceived by the human eye, the luminances of the lines being increased and decreased in such a way that most of the lines are adjacent other lines whose luminances are changed in the same direction.

14. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein when the luminance of a line is increased or decreased, the entire line is changed the same way.

15. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sinusoidal function.

16. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sawtooth function.

17. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein the luminance is increased a constant amount for half the lines and decreased by the same constant amount for the other half of the lines.

18. A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein for each of said lines for which the luminance is increased by a certain amount there is a corresponding line for which the luminance is decreased by the same amount.